IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the allowed claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-19, 21-28 and 30-34 with claims 1, 2 and 5 shown as further amended in connection with this Rule 312 amendment:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A printer comprising:

a back case unit having a continuous paper compartment for holding continuous paper;

a top cover unit assembled to open and close the back case unit so as to cover the continuous paper compartment when closed, and for forming a continuous paper transportation path for conveying the continuous paper between the top cover unit and the back case unit;

a first print unit disposed to the continuous paper transportation path for printing to the continuous paper;

a data reading device incorporated in the top cover unit so as to move with the top cover unit relative to the continuous paper compartment for reading information recorded or printed on an external medium when the medium is inserted into the printer; and

an internal cover located between the top cover unit and the back case unit with the internal cover being assembled to the printer to open and close relative to the top cover unit and with the internal cover having one side forming a medium transportation path for the medium when the internal cover is closed and for providing easy access to the medium transportation path for maintenance when the internal cover is opened.

2. (Currently Amended) A printer as described in claim 1, wherein the data reading device is an image scanning sensor for reading image data recorded or printed on the medium.

3. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 1, further comprising:

a front case unit having a slip transportation path for conveying a slip between the front case unit and the back case unit; and

a second print unit disposed to the slip transportation path for printing to slips.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A printer comprising:

a back case unit having a continuous paper compartment for holding continuous paper;

a top cover unit assembled to open and close the back case unit so as to cover the continuous paper compartment when closed, and for forming a continuous paper transportation path for conveying the continuous paper between the top cover unit and the back case unit;

a first print unit disposed to the continuous paper transportation path for printing to the continuous paper;

a data reading device incorporated in the top cover unit so as to move with the top cover unit relative to the continuous paper compartment for reading information recorded or printed on an external medium when the medium is inserted into the printer;

an internal cover located between the top cover unit and the back case unit and assembled to open and close relative to the top cover unit; and

an insertion opening through which the medium can be inserted into the printer;

wherein when the internal cover is closed, a medium transportation path is formed with the medium transportation path having one end adjacent the insertion opening for conveying the medium between the internal cover and the top cover unit; and with the data reading device disposed adjacent the medium transportation path.

6. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 1 further comprising:

an insertion opening through which the medium can be inserted into the printer;

wherein the medium transportation path having one end adjacent the insertion opening for conveying the medium between the internal cover and the top cover unit; and

with the data reading device disposed adjacent the medium transportation path.

7. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 5,

wherein the insertion opening is a slot disposed to the top cover unit for inserting the medium to the medium transportation path; and

further comprising a medium insertion prevention mechanism for preventing the insertion of the medium into the slot when the internal cover is open.

8. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 7, further comprising:

a shutter rotatably disposed to the top cover unit for blocking the medium transportation path when the internal cover is open; and

a lever disposed to the internal cover for holding the shutter in a predetermined position permitting the insertion of the medium into the slot when the internal cover is closed.

9. (Original) A printer as described in claim 5, wherein the top cover unit has guide walls for guiding media in the medium transportation path.

10. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 1, wherein the top cover unit has guide walls for guiding media in the medium transportation path.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Original) A printer as described in claim 5 wherein an opening is formed to the top cover unit to enable the medium to overhang a predetermined distance defining an overhang length from one end of the medium transportation path.

13. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 1, wherein an opening is formed to the top cover unit to enable the medium to overhang a predetermined distance defining an overhang length from one end of the medium transportation path.

14. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 12, wherein the overhang length is less than the distance between the position at which the top cover unit is farthest removed from the back side of the back case unit when the top cover unit is open, and the back side of the back case unit.

15. (Original) A printer as described in claim 5, further comprising a medium movement prevention mechanism for preventing movement of the medium when the top cover unit is open.

16. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 15, wherein the medium movement prevention mechanism comprises

a rotating member rotatably assembled to the internal cover or the top cover unit for intervening in the medium transportation path when the top cover unit is open, and

a holding member for inhibiting the rotating member from intervening in the medium transportation path when the top cover unit is closed.

17. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 16, wherein the rotating member comprises:

an engaging part rotatably assembled to the internal cover or the top cover unit, and engaging the back case unit when the top cover unit opens; and

a stopper protruding into the medium transportation path when the engaging part is engaged with the back case unit.

18. (Original) A printer as described in claim 17, wherein the holding member is a spring member urging the stopper to a retracted position to permit movement of the medium when the top cover unit is closed.

19. (Original) A printer as described in claim 17, wherein the stopper comprises an elastic contact part for clamping the medium.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 19, wherein the elastic contact part comprises a clamping lever assembled for swinging relative to the rotating member, and

a spring member for urging the clamping lever in the clamping direction.

22. (Previously Presented) A medium transportation assembly for transporting an external medium which can be externally inserted therein to a data reading device for reading medium comprising:

a housing having a top cover and a body to which the top cover is connected for opening and closing the top cover;

the data reading device being disposed to the top cover for reading information recorded on the external medium;

an internal cover located between the top cover and the body which can open and close when the top cover is open with the internal cover assembled relative to the top cover such that a medium transportation path is formed only when the internal cover is closed for conveying the external medium to the data reading device.

23. (Previously Presented) A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 22, wherein the data reading device is an image scanning sensor for reading image data recorded on the external medium.

24. (Previously Presented) A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 22, further comprising a medium movement prevention mechanism linked to the top cover unit opening/closing operation for preventing movement of the external medium by protruding into the medium transportation path when the top cover is open.

25. (Previously Presented) A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 24, wherein the medium movement prevention mechanism comprises:

a rotating member rotatably assembled to the internal cover or the top cover and intervening in the medium transportation path when the top cover is open, and

a holding member for holding the rotating member in a retracted position permitting the external medium to move when the top cover is closed.

26. (Previously Presented) A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 25, wherein the rotating member comprises:

an engaging part rotatably assembled to the internal cover or the top cover and engaging body top when the top cover opens; and

a stopper protruding into the medium transportation path when the engaging part is engaged with the body top.

27. (Previously Presented) A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 26, wherein the holding member is a spring member for holding the stopper in a retracted position to permit movement of the external medium when the top cover is closed.

28. (Previously Presented) A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 26, wherein the stopper comprises an elastic contact part for clamping the external medium.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Presented) A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 28, wherein the elastic contact part comprises:

a clamping lever assembled for swinging relative to the rotating member, and

a spring member for flexibly urging the clamping lever in the clamping direction.

31. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 5, wherein the data reading device is an image scanning sensor for reading image data recorded or printed on the medium.

32. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 5, further comprising:

a front case unit having a slip transportation path for conveying a slip between the front case unit and the back case unit; and

a second print unit disposed to the slip transportation path for printing to slips.

33. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 1,

wherein the insertion opening is a slot disposed to the top cover unit for inserting the medium to the medium transportation path; and

further comprising a medium insertion prevention mechanism for preventing the insertion of the medium into the slot when the internal cover is open.

34. (Previously Presented) A printer as described in claim 1, further comprising a medium movement prevention mechanism for preventing movement of the medium when the top cover unit is open.